

Date: Wednesday, 11 April 2018

Event Name: PPIS Bridging and Humanifying Family Practice Symposium 2018: *'Rethinking Intimacy and Culture: Discoursing, Practicing and Researching'*

Singapore, Wednesday, 11 April 2018. Since 2015, PPIS Family Therapy Institute (FTI) saw a total of 1,572 cases involving couples and families. 95% of these cases had a common underlying theme – a lack of understanding and practising of intimacy. In response, PPIS FTI organised its second Bridging and Humanifying Family Practice Symposium for practitioners. The event was graced by Guest-of-Honour Associate Professor Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister of Communications & Information, Minister in Charge of Muslim Affairs and Minister in Charge of Cyber Security, together with social service practitioners at Concorde Hotel this morning.

The two-day Practice Symposium was the next phase after PPIS FTI's Family Symposium last year, where families broadened their definition of intimacy within a familial context. With the theme of *'Rethinking Intimacy and Culture: Discoursing, Practicing and Researching'*, today's Symposium aims to bring intimacy to the forefront of conversations among practitioners working with families.

By providing a safe holding space for them to explore and discourse about intimacy across cultures, the organisation aims to encourage fellow practitioners to recognise the importance in expanding the concept of intimacy to multiple contexts such as addiction, in their work with families. They learnt ways to nurture intimacy in couple and familial interactions, and were introduced to new research and writing tools in the practice such as reflexive writing. This, the organisation hopes, would increase the confidence of practitioners to imbue mutual learning about intimacy with families that they work with.



Family Therapist, Mr Terry Real of the Relational Life Institute in United States said “Rethinking about intimacy will help individuals live in a state of authentic connection to themselves – their wants and needs, feelings, sensations – to others – through increased accountability, vulnerability, and empathy – and to the larger world of spirit and purpose. Hence it is important to have such Symposiums for professionals, to equip them with developing or developed knowledge and skills for the benefit of families and couples.”

Mr Real gave a keynote speech alongside international speaker Dr Gail Simon from the University of Bedfordshire in United Kingdom and PPIS Principal Family Therapist, Ms Maimunah Mosli.

“PPIS FTI believes that intimacy and culture, are topics and contexts that are very important when strengthening families within multicultural Singapore,” Ms Rahayu Mohamad, President of PPIS has this to add. “The Family Practice Symposium series, along with the launch of the publication today represents FTI’s continued support to the social services sector towards the development of family therapy practice in Singapore.”

A biennial event organised by PPIS FTI, this also marks the second instalment of the Family Practice Symposium series where practitioners can find comfort while deliberating on the practices of family therapy, within and beyond the local context. The first one was held in 2016 where practitioners paid attention to interaction patterns through the use of systemic lens.

PPIS FTI also launched its publication titled ‘Between Spaces: A Book about Supervisions by Supervisees & Supervisors’. The publication features an interactive reflection on the topic of intimacy shared by therapists as well as the multiple contexts surrounding clinical practice at the institute.



Guest-of-Honour:

Associate Professor Dr Yaacob Ibrahim

Minister of Communications & Information, Minister in Charge of Muslim Affairs and

Minister in Charge of Cyber Security

Member of Parliament for Jalan Besar GRC

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday, 11 April 2018 and Thursday, 12 April 2018

Venue: Concorde Hotel, 100 Orchard Road, Singapore 238840

Time: 9.00am – 5.00pm (GOH will arrive at 8.45am)

The forum will be held in English

Keynote Speakers:

- Dr Gail Simon, Professional Doctorate in Systemic Practice, University of Bedfordshire (United Kingdom)
- Mr Terry Real, Family Therapist, Speaker and Author, Relational Life Institute (United States)
- Mdm Maimunah Mosli, Principal Family Therapist from PPIS Family Therapy Institute

For any media inquiries, please contact:

Nurulhusnina Azhar (Corporate Communications)

O: 6744 0258

M: 9144 7476

E: husnina.azhar@ppis.sg



About PPIS

Founded in 1952, PPIS (Persatuan Pemudi Islam Singapura or Singapore Muslim Women's Association) is non-profit organisation focused on community services. We are dedicated to working with women of all ages in carrying out their multiple roles in society. PPIS runs three core community services namely Family Services, Student Care and Early Childhood Education (ECE). With 16 centres island wide, the services work together to provide a quality and holistic support as well as developmental programmes for women and their families.

About PPIS Family Therapy Institute (FTI)

PPIS Family Therapy Institute (FTI) aims to be the leading family therapy, training and consultancy institute for families in Singapore. At FTI, we believe that every individual matters. The Person & The Professional. Guided by systemic ideas, the institute hopes to nurture individuals, couples, families and professionals in negotiating positions through bridging relationships and bettering interaction across an array of contexts through therapy, training and consultancy.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ppis.sg>.